This listing of claims will replace the originally filed claims in the application.

Listing of Claims

Claims 1 – 18 (canceled).

Claim 19 (new): A method for disinfecting the surface of an article comprising a composition containing 1-(2-ethyl-hexyl)glycerol ether.

Claim 20 (new): The method according to Claim 19, further comprising at least one component selected from the group consisting of:

a) additional agent; and
b) auxiliary.

Claim 21 (new): The method according to Claim 20, wherein said additional agent is citric acid.

Claim 22 (new): The method according to Claim 21, wherein said citric acid contains no alcohol.

Claim 23 (new): The method according to Claim 20, wherein said further agent comprises at least one component selected from the group consisting of:

a) aldehydes;
b) amines;
c) phenols;
d) halogen compounds;
e) carboxylic acids; and
f) aromatic alcohols.

Claim 24 (new): The method according to Claim 23, wherein said aromatic alcohol comprises at least one component selected from the group consisting of:

a) o-phenylphenol;
b) triclosan;
c) o-phthalaldehyde;
d) Lonzabac 12; and

e) Lonzabac LF.

Claim 25 (new): The method according to Claim 20, wherein said auxiliary comprises at least one component selected from the group consisting of:

a) aldehydes;
b) amines;
c) phenols;
d) halogen compounds;
e) carboxylic acids;
f) wetting agents;
g) cleaning components;
h) corrosion inhibitors;
i) nonionic surfactants;
j) anionic surfactants;
k) amphoteric surfactants;
l) buffers;
m) acids;
n) alkalizing agents;
o) perfumes;
p) dyes;
q) salts;
r) indicators;
s) markers;
t) complexing agents; and
u) antifoams.

Claim 26 (new): The method according to Claim 25, wherein said auxiliary comprises at least one component selected from the group consisting of:

a) sodium chloride;
b) o-phenylphenol;
c) triclosan;
d) o-phthaldialdehyde;
e) Lonzabac 12;
f) Lonzabac LF;

g) sodium benzoate; and

h) sodium hydroxide.

Claim 27 (new): The method according to Claim 19, wherein said composition is in the form of an aqueous solution.

Claim 28 (new): The method according to Claim 19, wherein said composition is anhydrous.

Claim 29 (new): The method according to Claim 19, wherein said disinfection occurs at a temperature equal to or greater than about 25°C.

Claim 30 (new): The method according to Claim 29, wherein said temperature is equal to or greater than about 30°C.

Claim 31 (new): The method according to Claim 30, wherein said temperature is equal to or greater than about 35°C.

Claim 32 (new): The method according to Claim 31, wherein said temperature is equal to or greater than about 40°C.

Claim 33 (new): The method according to Claim 32, wherein said temperature is in the range of from about 40 to about 80°C.

Claim 34 (new): The method according to Claim 33, wherein said temperature is in the range of from about 45 to about 60°C.

Claim 35 (new): The method according to Claim 34, wherein said temperature is in the range of from about 45 to about 55°C.

Claim 36 (new): The method according to Claim 35, wherein said temperature is about 50°C.

Claim 37 (new): The method according to Claim 19, wherein said disinfection process occurs at a temperature in the range of from about 25 to about 170°C.

Claim 38 (new): The method according to Claim 37, wherein said temperature is in the range of from about 80 to about 160°C.

Claim 39 (new): The method according to Claim 38, wherein said temperature is in the range of from about 100 to about 150°C.

Claim 40 (new): The method according to Claim 39, wherein said temperature is in the range of from about 120 to 140°C.

Claim 41 (new): The method according to Claim 40, wherein said temperature is in the range of from about 130 to 135°C.

Claim 42 (new): The method according to Claim 19, wherein said surface is wetted, sprayed, rubbed, wiped or moistened with the composition.

Claim 43 (new): The method according to Claim 19, wherein said surface is dipped into the composition.

Claim 44 (new): The method according to Claim 19, wherein said surface is disinfected by atomizing the composition.

Claim 45 (new): The method according to Claim 19, wherein said surface to be disinfected comprises at least one component selected from the group consisting of:

a) metal;
b) glass;
c) wood;
d) plastic;
e) textile; and
f) ceramic.

Claim 46 (new): The method according to Claim 19, wherein said article to be disinfected is at least one device selected from the group consisting of:

a) medical instrument;
b) laboratory apparatus;
c) thermolabile materials; and
d) thermostable materials.

Claim 47 (new): The method according to Claim 19, wherein said article to be disinfected is at least one device selected from the group consisting of:

a) bottle;
b) air-conditioning system;
c) membrane;
d) ion exchanger;
e) cooling water circulation; and
f) endoscope.

Claim 48 (new): The method according to Claim 19, wherein said disinfection occurs for a time in the range of from about 10 seconds to about 1 hour.

Claim 49 (new): The method according to Claim 48, wherein said range is from about 1 minute to about 30 minutes.

Claim 50 (new): The method according to Claim 49, wherein said range is from about 5 to about 15 minutes.

Claim 51 (new): The method according to Claim 19, wherein the amount of said glycerol ether present in said composition comprises a level in the range of from about 1 to about 20% by weight of said composition.

Claim 52 (new): The method according to Claim 51, wherein said range is from about 2 to about 10%.

Claim 53 (new): The method according to Claim 19, wherein said composition further comprises about 80% of water by weight.

Claim 54 (new): The method according to Claim 53, wherein said weight is in the range of from about 89.5% to about 99.45%.

Claim 55 (new): The method according to Claim 52, wherein said weight is in the range of from about 94.9 % to about 98.9%.

Claim 56 (new): The method according to Claim 19, wherein said composition, in the form of a concentrate, further comprises about 40% of water by weight.

Claim 57 (new): The method according to Claim 20, wherein said components are present in a composition comprising:

a) from about 0.01 to about 1.0% of glycerol ether by weight; and
b) from about 0.1 to about 15% of at least one additional agent by weight.

Claim 58 (new): The method according to Claim 57, wherein said composition comprises:

a) from about 0.025 to about 0.5% of glycerol ether by weight, and
b) from about 0.5 to about 10% of at least one additional agent by weight.

Claim 59 (new): The method according to Claim 58, wherein said glycerol ether comprises about 0.1 % by weight of the total composition.

Claim 60 (new): The method according to Claim 56, wherein said weight is in the range of from about 94.5 to about 99.725%.

Claim 61 (new): The method according to Claim 60, wherein said weight is in the range of from about 97.8 to about 99.45%.

Claim 62 (new): The method according to Claim 20, wherein said composition further comprises:

c) a salt.

Claim 63 (new): The method according to Claim 19, wherein the pH of said composition in the range of from about 3 to about 10.

Claim 64 (new): The method according to Claim 19, wherein said glycerol ether comprises at least one component selected from the group consisting of:

a) branched saturated alkyl; and

b) unbranched saturated alkyl.

Claim 65 (new): The method according to Claim 19, wherein the 1- or 2-alkylglycerol ether comprises at least one component selected from the group consisting of:

a) ecylglycerol ether;

b) ylglycerol ether;

c) lglycerol ether;

d) pylglycerol ether;

e) adecylglycerol ether;

f) adecylglycerol ether;

g) adecenylglycerol ether; and

h) 2-ethylhexyl)glycerol ether.

Claim 66 (new): The method according to Claim 19, wherein said composition disinfects at least one component selected from the group consisting of:

a) bacteria;

b) yeasts;

c) molds;

d) mycobacteria;

e) viruses;

f) propionibacteria (*Propionibacterium acnes*);

g) dandruff-causing microbes (*Malassezia furfur*);

h) prions;

i) odour-causing microorganisms;

j) lower harmful organisms;

k) protozoa;

l) pores; and

m) fungi.

Claim 67 (new): A process for the disinfection of an article comprising the steps of:

i) cleaning said article with a neutral cleaner;

ii) disinfecting of said article with a composition comprising at least one 1- or 2-(C_3- to C_{24}-alkyl)glycerol ethers and at least one aromatic alcohol;

iii) rinsing said article with cold water; and

iv) drying said article.

Claim 68 (new): The process according to Claim 67, wherein said process further comprises the step of precleaning said article with cold water before step i).

Claim 69 (new): The process according to Claim 67, wherein the operating temperature of said cleaning occurs in the range of from about 55 to about 60°C.

Claim 70 (new); The process according to Claim 67, wherein the operating temperature of said cleaning occurs at about 93°C.

Claim 71 (new): The process according to Claim 67, wherein said disinfection occurs at an operating temperature in the range of from about 55 to about 60°C.

Claim 72 (new): The process according to Claim 67, wherein said disinfection occurs at an operating temperature in the range of from about 90 to about 100°C.

Claim 73 (new): The process according to Claim 72, wherein said temperature is in the range of from about 90 to about 95°C.

Claim 74 (new): The process according to Claim 67, wherein said drying occurs at an operating temperature of from about 40 to about 60°C.

Claim 75 (new): The process according to Claim 67, wherein said disinfection occurs at an operating time of from about 1 to about 20 minutes.